



NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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Richardson Oregon All-Star Series Announces North and South Coaches

Corvallis, Ore., Monday, May 24 – The Richardson Oregon All-Star Series announced its North and South coaches for this year’s two-game showcase set for June 19-20 at OSU’s Goss Stadium as selected by 6A Coordinators Jake Anders and John Arntson; 5A Coordinator Scot McDonald and Director Dan Segel.

Leading the North will be head coaches Matt Kabza of Grant, Ray Pearson of Lakeridge and Matt Bailie of Westview.

The South will be coached by skippers Kenny Niles of Churchill, Don Lien of West Albany and Taylor Blair of West Salem.

The Richardson Oregon All-Star Series features the top senior baseball players in the 6A and 5A classifications in a two-game series at Goss Stadium in Corvallis. After a year hiatus, the longtime series resumes Saturday, June 19 and Sunday, June 20 with Saturday’s first pitch scheduled for 3 pm and Sunday’s at 11 am. Both games are 9-inning contests.

This will be Kabza’s and Pearson’s first coaching appearance in the Oregon All-Star Series. Matt Bailie was a North coach in 2018.

In 1995, following his senior season as a player at Madison High School, Kabza appeared in the State-Metro Series (now called Oregon All-Star Series) at Quinton Street Ballpark in The Dalles.

Coach Kabza led Grant to the State’s best record in 2021 as his Generals went 17-1 and won the PIL for a second straight spring. Kabza played college baseball at Linfield and has been Grant’s skipper since 2012. In addition to his coaching duties, he teaches business courses at Grant High School.

An alum of Springfield High School, Pearson’s Lakeridge Pacers finished this spring 15-2 and captured the Three Rivers League title. Ray has been a varsity coach for 14 years and Lakeridge’s head coach for the past two seasons. His first head coaching job was at Horizon Christian High School. Prior to Lakeridge, Ray was an assistant coach for six years at perennial power West Linn.

Former Hillsboro High School star Matt Bailie also played in the State-Metro Series in The Dalles at Quinton Street Ballpark. He represented the Spartans in 1994. After high school, Matt shined at Oregon State both as a pitcher and hitter and was selected by the Philadelphia Phillies in the 22nd round of the 1998 MLB Draft. From there, he went on to have a lengthy professional career (nearly 10 years), which was highlighted by the right-hander throwing a no-hitter for the Bowie Bay Sox in 2005, his final affiliated season.

Bailie started his head coaching career at Aloha High School where he led the Warriors to a Metro League title in 2007. Matt then managed his alma mater Hillsboro High for 9 years before taking the helm at Westview in 2018 where he won a 6A State title in his first year with the Wildcats and was named the State’s Coach of the Year.

This spring, Bailie guided Westview to a Metro League title and overall record of 14-3.

At Westview, Matt is a Special Education teacher who is running the school’s ALC specialized classroom.

South coach Kenny Niles of Churchill is making his second appearance in the Oregon All-Star Series. He was a coach in 2017 with Jay Campbell of Crater and helped lead the South to a series victory.

Kenny won two State titles as a player at Grant Union High School (1990, 1992) playing for legendary head coach Art Thunell. He would later return to his alma mater as Thunell’s pitching coach.

After six successful seasons at Sheldon High School, Niles took the Churchill head job in 2013. He has led the Lancers to 7 consecutive post-season appearances and the school's first State baseball title in 2017. Niles overall record at Churchill is 140-47 and over 25 of his players have gone on to play college baseball.

Kenny also manages the American Legion Eugene Challengers in the summer and was recently named the Director of Baseball Operations and Player Personnel for the expansion Springfield Drifters of the West Coast League.

Niles is a Special Education instructor at Churchill High School. He and his wife Jennifer recently opened-up the Niles108 baseball academy in Springfield in collaboration with the Springfield Baseball Project.

Longtime West Albany High School head coach Don Lien is making his third coaching appearance in the Oregon All-Star Series, as he coached in the State-Metro Series in 2004 and 2009. He led the 2021 Bulldogs squad to a Mid-Willamette Conference title and 14-3 overall record. Lien started his head coaching career at West Albany in 1998. Over 23 years as West's skipper, he has guided the Bulldogs to the playoffs 15 times.

Don played his high school baseball for Dan Gordon at McKay and graduated in 1988. After college, he worked for Speed City as a trainer. Since, Lien has been a leader in developing speed and quickness.

Don Lien's son Jayce, who starred at West Albany, participated in the Oregon All-Star Series in 2018 and is currently playing at George Fox University.

Coach Lien is also a Physical Education teacher at West Albany High.

Taylor Blair of West Salem High School is making his first Oregon All-Star Series coaching appearance. He led the Titans to a 16-3 overall record this spring.

Blair has been West Salem's head coach since 2019 as he replaced legendary skipper Micah Tiffin. He worked for Tiffin for 12 years in a variety of roles from JV/Frosh assistant coach to varsity pitching coach.

A native of Sacramento, California, Taylor pitched in college for American River JC and Albertson College and appeared in the NAIA World Series.

Coach Blair has been a Special Education teacher for 11 years.

The 2021 Richardson Oregon All-Star Series North and South team rosters will be announced on Tuesday, June 1.

ABOUT THE OREGON ALL-STAR SERIES

Oregon High School Baseball All-Star Series showcases the top senior players from the state's 5A and 6A classifications over a set of games held each third or fourth weekend in June. The All-Star Series thrived in The Dalles for decades (1971-2007) as the State-Metro Series and celebrated its 50th anniversary in its last year at Quinton Street Ball Park in The Dalles. Bend hosted the 5A Series in 2008 and 2009 while the 6A Series was held in McMinnville those same years before the two classifications combined to play a 5A/6A All-Star Series in McMinnville in 2010. The Oregon High School Baseball Coaches Association moved the series to Corvallis in 2011. Reser's Fine Foods was the title sponsor from 2011-2016; Daimler in 2017 and Freightliner Trucks from 2018-2019.

ABOUT RICHARDSON SPORTS



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Richardson Sports, a privately owned and operated sports product company, has been producing performance inspired products since 1970. We have deep roots in the Team Athletic business and a strong association with baseball at all levels of amateur play. Over the last 50 years, we've made products and equipment for all sports, but today we're focused on making high quality headwear and team apparel for not only on-field play but for anywhere you play. We're excited to have this year's Oregon All Stars wearing our PTS line of custom baseball caps and uniforms..... baseball is a big part of who we are and always will be.

ABOUT GOSS STADIUM

Goss Stadium at Coleman Field is home to the three-time national champion Oregon State Beavers and seven-time West Coast League champion Corvallis Knights. Goss Stadium opened in 1999 and expanded in 2009 and 2015. The oldest continuous ballpark in the nation, the site of Oregon State University's first varsity team in 1907, features a state-of-the-art videoboard, FieldTurf, the Omaha Club Room, Casey Corner and the TnT Builders Party Deck at Banners. For more info on Goss Stadium, visit: osubeavers.com/facilities/goss-stadium-at-coleman-field/5

ABOUT THE CORVALLIS KNIGHTS

The Corvallis Knights are a member of the fifteen-team, wood-bat, summer collegiate West Coast League. The club is dedicated to accelerating prospect development, bettering its communities and delivering affordable family entertainment. Based in Corvallis, the team plays June through August at Goss Stadium on the campus of Oregon State University. Established in 1990, the club relocated to Corvallis in 2007. The team features top collegiate players and a full slate of entertaining promotions including fireworks shows. For more info on the Knights, visit: corvallisknights.com

ABOUT THE WEST COAST LEAGUE

The West Coast League, established in 2005, is the premier summer collegiate wood-bat league in western North America. Member clubs include the Bellingham Bells, Bend Elks, Corvallis Knights, Cowlitz Black Bears, Edmonton Riverhawks, Kamloops NorthPaws, Kelowna Falcons, Nanaimo NightOwls, Port Angeles Lefties, Portland Pickles, Springfield Drifters, Victoria HarbourCats, Walla Walla Sweets, Wenatchee AppleSox and Yakima Valley Pippins. Teams feature top players from schools from major conferences like the Pac-10, Big West and WCC. For more info on the West Coast League, visit: westcoastleague.com

ABOUT CORVALLIS

Corvallis, Oregon, population 58,028, is in the heart of the Willamette Valley. Home to Oregon State University, it is the quintessential college town. Wide streets, sheltered by ancient trees, red brick or white masonry buildings and its location along the Willamette River make Corvallis a handsome city. Corvallis is close to the Coast Range and wildlife areas. The city is within 90 minutes of the beach, the Siuslaw National Forest and Portland. For more info on Corvallis, visit: visitcorvallis.com